

REMARKS

The Office Action dated December 28, 2006 has been reviewed, and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered. Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schmitz (U.S. Pat. No. 6622804) in view of Heidelberg (U.S. Pat. No. 4754207) and further in view of Li (U.S. Pat. No. 6278216). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action does not provide a grounds of rejection involving Mongeau (U.S. Pat. No. 5917295) but reference to Mongeau is made at page 3 of the Office Action. Accordingly, because of the location of the reference to Mongeau within the Office Action, Applicants understand Mongeau to constitute a secondary reference to the above-described rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 11. Any rejection based on Mongeau is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action also does not set forth a rejection of dependent claims 2-4, 6-7, and 9-10. However, the Office Action at page 4 appears to reject claims 2-4, 6-7, and 9-10 under the same grounds identified for independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 11. Any such rejection of claims 2-4, 6-7, and 9-10 is respectfully traversed.

The applied references, alone or in combination, fail to show, describe, teach, or suggest an electric car or vehicle, or a method of propelling a car or vehicle, involving at least one motor and/or generator comprising two or more electromagnetic power circuits that provide power to the motor and/or generator, the circuits having no electrical connection to each other (per claim 1) or being sufficiently isolated to substantially eliminate electromagnetic and electrical interference between the circuits (per claims 5, 8 and 11), and the Office has failed to provide an explicit analysis identifying a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine Schmitz with the secondary references.

The Office Action at pages 2-3 acknowledges that the primary reference (Schmitz) fails to show, describe, teach, or suggest the following features of one or more of the independent claims:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Deficiency [a] | a motor and/or generator that is an <u>adaptive electric machine</u> (see claims 1, 5, 8, and 11); |
| Deficiency [b] | an adaptive electric machine having <u>two or more electromagnetic power circuits</u> (see claims 1, 5, 8, and 11); |

- Deficiency [c]** an adaptive electric machine with two or more electric power circuits that are sufficiently isolated to substantially eliminate electromagnetic interference between the two circuits (see claim 5, 8, and 11);
- Deficiency [d]** an adaptive electric machine with two or more electric power circuits that are sufficiently isolated to substantially eliminate electrical interference between the two circuits (see claim 5, 8, and 11); and
- Deficiency [e]** an adaptive electric machine with two or more electric power circuits that have no electrical connection to each other (see claim 1).

The Office Action at page 3 asserts that Li remedies Deficiency [a] because Li purportedly describes motor control system with a processor that would purportedly form an adapted control scheme. The Office Action at page 3 also asserts that Heidelberg remedies Deficiency [c] because Heidelberg purportedly describes a motor with structurally and magnetically isolated groups of stator core elements. The Office Action at page 3 also appears to assert that Mongeau remedies Deficiency [c] because it purportedly describes a controller that independently controls phases of a motor. However, nowhere in the Office Action does the Office provide an explicit analysis identifying how the secondary references remedy Deficiencies [b], [d], and [e].

Accordingly, the Office thus fails to set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Applicants respectfully submit that the secondary references fail to, at minimum, remedy the above-described deficiencies of Schmitz. For example, the Office Action at page 3 discusses the Heidelberg reference in regard to the structural and electromagnetic separation of groups of stator core elements, but the claims do not recite stator core elements, so it is thus not clear to Applicants how the Heidelberg reference addresses the above-described deficiencies of Schmitz.

For the foregoing reasons, the applied references, alone or in combination, fail to show, describe, teach, or suggest all of the features recited in the independent claims, as a whole, and the dependent claims thereof, and the Office has failed to provide an explicit analysis identifying a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine Schmitz with the secondary references.. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

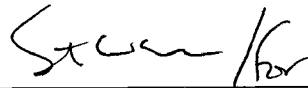
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of pending claims 1-11.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3840. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 28, 2007
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